



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEFENDANT CHARGED WITH ALIEN SMUGGLING

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announces today that CLAUDE MELVIN JONES, JR, DOB: 01/05/1963, of Tucson, Arizona has been charged with alien smuggling.

The criminal complaint charges CLAUDE MELVIN JONES, JR, with violating Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324 (a)(1)(A)(ii), knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that certain aliens, had come to, entered and remained in the United States in violation of the law, did transport and move said aliens within the United States by means of transportation or otherwise, in furtherance of such violation of law. According to the complaint, Jones picked up the five illegal aliens in his vehicle near the town of Arivaca, Arizona.

The arrest preceding the complaint was conducted by Border Patrol agents on routine patrol duties. The defendant was arrested on April 6, 2004 and had an initial appearance in U.S. District Court, Tucson, Arizona on April 7, 2004. Jones is being detained until April 9, 2004 at 9:15 a.m. at which time he have a detention hearing in U.S. District Court, Tucson, Arizona.

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A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

A conviction for alien smuggling carries a maximum penalty of 5 year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both.

The prosecution is being handled by the Tucson office of United States Attorney, District of Arizona, (520) 620-7300.

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